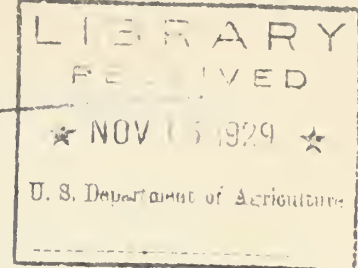


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FARMING AND FORESTRY

A radio talk by H. N. Wheeler, Forest Service, delivered through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, November 8, 1929 at 1:35 p. m., Eastern Standard Time.

Most people in thinking about forestry have the idea that it concerns only the Government or State or the big private timberland owner and does not concern the average citizen.

A man ran to the country store and asked Bill to help him get his calf out of the well. Bill went over and let the old man down the well. Soon he heard him calling "Pull me up". When he got the old man to the top of the well he didn't have the calf. Bill said, "Wasn't the calf down there?" "Oh yes," the old man said, "the calf was down there, but it wasn't my calf".

Forestry in all its phases, including timber production, watershed protection, game conservation, recreation, and landscape beautification, does concern every man, woman and child, especially the farmers. Farming is the art of producing crops from the soil. Some lands are best suited to raising ordinary field and vegetable crops, while other lands are best suited to timber growth, and, in fact some of the ground that has been put under cultivation should be in trees. Tops of hills, badly eroding steep slopes that no longer pay the cost of cultivation, rock lands and sloughs and wet bottom lands will all produce trees. No one can afford to pay taxes on idle waste land, but more than that every farmer needs all the return from his lands that it is possible to attain with reasonable expenditure of time and money. Practically every farmer needs lumber, fence posts, poles, and fire wood. He may be unable to raise the kind of lumber he would buy but it will be satisfactory for most of his needs.

In most sections of the United States there are many idle days on the farm in winter time or at other seasons of the year that might be profitably employed in cutting trees and in planting more trees so as to make timber production continuous. On many farms a year long hired hand is desirable and with timber to cut and trees to plant during otherwise idle periods such a man can be employed with profit.

In the Prairie States and on the plains between the Rockies and the Missouri River, trees are needed about the farm home to shield man and beast against the blizzards of winter and the scorching wind and sun of summer. A good shelter belt not only reduces the fuel bill for the house and the forage needed for the stock but increases the value of the farm, even as much as a thousand dollars per farm. Trees beautify the roadsides and home grounds but also they shelter the birds so necessary to help rid trees and farm crops of insects and noxious weed seeds. But no small value of shelter belt and roadside trees is in furnishing wood material for the

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farm use the same as the woodland itself. The Iowa State experiment station finds that waste farm lands are producing cottonwood that brings a return to the farmer of from \$5.27 to \$7.39 per acre per year after paying 6 per cent compound interest on the investment. Black locust seedlings secured from the State nursery of Tennessee at \$1.50 per thousand and planted on badly eroded worn out lands have grown to fence post size and are bringing a net return to certain farmers of the State of \$11.31 per acre per year. Besides they have stopped further soil washing. A farmer in Missouri realized \$10 per acre per year from Osage orange fence posts for each year they were growing. Cottonwood, willow and softwood posts must be treated with creosote to get the best value from them.

But after all the greatest return from timber to the farmers is in the forest regions where the usual crop land is often one-third of the total area in the farm while the rest is producing timber or lying idle. The farmers of Rusk County, Texas, in 1928 sold \$1,000,000 worth of timber and of Marian County \$750,000 worth the same year, or three-fourths the cotton crop in those counties. Arkansas farmers own 7,000,000 acres of the 21,000,000 acres of timberland in the State and the farmers of northern Minnesota and Wisconsin are getting more return from their farms by the harvesting of timber than from production of the ordinary farm crops.

Moderate grazing on pine land is permissible but pasturing the hardwood lands is generally harmful. It is a waste of a good cow's time to chase over many acres to pick a little food and it injures the tree growth by destroying small trees and by packing the soil about the big trees.

Thirty-three States have State nurseries and are selling trees at from \$1.50 to \$10 per thousand. This is the best way for farmers to get trees, except where black walnut and oaks are desired. In this case the nuts and acorns should be planted where the trees are to be located permanently.

Without trees about the home, life is less enjoyable.

"Many a tree is found in the wood
And every tree for its use is good:
Some for the strength of the gnarled root,
Some for the sweetness of flower or fruit;
Some for shelter against the storm,
And some to keep the hearth-stone warm;
Some for the roof and some for the beam,
And some for a boat to breast the stream;-
In the wealth of the wood since the world began
The trees have offered their gifts to man."

(From "Salute to the Trees" by Henry Van Dyke)